

REMARKS

I. Introduction

At the time of the Office Action dated January 9, 2006, claims 2-6 and 12-19 are pending in this application. Of those claims, claims 13-18 have been withdrawn from consideration pursuant to the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §1.142(b). Applicants presume that claim 5 is also indicated to be withdrawn from consideration because the claim depends upon claim 13.

In this Amendment, claims 3, 4, 6 and 12 have been amended, and claims 2 and 19 have been canceled. Care has been exercised to avoid the introduction of new matter. Specifically, claims 3 and 4 have been amended to be in independent form based on claim 2. Claims 6 and 12 have respectively been amended to be dependent on claim 3 or 4. Claims 3, 4, 6 and 12 are now active in this application.

II. The Objection to Claim 19

The objection to claim 19 has been rendered moot by cancellation of the claim. Withdrawal of the objection to claim 19 is, therefore, respectfully solicited.

III. The Rejection of Claims 2-6, 12 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph

Claim 2 has been canceled in this Amendment. However, since claims 3 and 4 include all the limitations recited in claim 3, Applicants address the issues raised by the Examiner with respect to claim 2.

The Examiner stated that Fig. 10 does not show the adjusting means recited in claim 2, and requested to explain how the adjusting means is read on Fig. 10. In response, Applicants

invite the Examiner's attention to paragraph [0087] of the present specification. The paragraph describes as follows:

As a result, comparison voltages used in the computer 400 correspond to a reference voltage "Vref" connected to a noninverting terminal of this comparator 400, and the differential output (negative) of the D/A converter 500a (500b) which is connected to an inverting terminal of this comparator 400, and have no mutual relationship. Accordingly, this may become equal to such a case that the offset is applied to the differential pair transistors of the comparator as explained in the above-described first embodiment, and may cause such an operation that a difference between the differential output (negative) and the reference voltage Vref is held by the comparator 400.

Paragraph [0087] is found in SECOND EMBODIMENT MODE directed to Fig. 10.

Based on this paragraph, it is apparent that persons skilled in the art can understand that comparator 400 in the description is capable of performing as the adjusting means, which is explained by Figs. 3-7 in the "first embodiment." Therefore, Fig. 10 substantially shows the claimed adjusting means.

In addition, the Examiner pointed out that the recitation of "calculating means for adding a value corresponding to said error signal to said input signal" recited in claim 2 is misdescriptive. Applicants invite the Examiner's attention to paragraph [0088] of the specification, which is reproduced below.

In other words, in the case that the input/output of the D/A converter 500a (500b) own the offset, such a correction value capable of canceling this offset is outputted from a correction value producing circuit 411, and then, this correction value is applied to the input signal in an adder 420.

According to the above paragraph, it may be understandable that in the description, correction value producing circuit 411 and adder 420, or adder 420 can be the claimed calculating means performing what is described in paragraph [0088]. Accordingly, the recitation of "calculating means..." is not misdescriptive.

Furthermore, the Examiner stated that the recitation of “holding means” in claim 6 lacks antecedent basis. In response, claim 6 has been amended to replace the recitation “holding means” with --adjusting means--.

It is noted that claim 19 has been canceled, which has rendered the rejection of claim 19 moot.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully solicit withdrawal of the rejection of claims 2, 6 and 19, as well as dependent claims 3-5 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

IV. The Rejection of Claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

The rejection of claim 2 has been rendered moot by cancellation of the claim. Applicants, therefore, respectfully solicit withdrawal of the rejection of claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b).

V. Conclusion

As no other rejections of claims 3, 4, 6 and 12 are pending in the Office Action, Applicants submit that by the present Amendment and Remarks, this application is placed in clear condition for immediate allowance. Accordingly, entry of the present Amendment and Remarks, and favorable consideration, are respectfully solicited pursuant to the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §1.116.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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